

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 8, 2001

LB 538, 543, 692

Reading. Mr. Clerk, the first bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion. Senator Wehrbein would move to return LB 538 to Select File for specific amendment, AM1865. (Legislative Journal page 1845.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to open on your motion to return.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker and members, this is a amendment to LB 538 to insert \$1.5 million of General Funds for appropriation. This was inadvertently left out of this bill, which is the deficit bill. This one is to go to region...this is a deficit for emergency psychiatric care services in Region VI. It already is in the status, so you don't have to worry about that. It simply was not, when we looked through the final appropriations bills and the wording, the appropriation was not made in this bill, which is, once again, LB 538. And I have detail on that if you're interested in it. It's \$1.5 million of deficit spending, that's expenses that were incurred this year for emergency psychiatric care in Region VI. It's primarily goes to providers being reimbursed for care. The providers that are being reimbursed for care are: Alegent, Richard Young, the Douglas County Hospital. A primary reason that the funds are needed is due to the number of post-commitment days for persons waiting to get into the state regional centers. The regional center beds are full, and committed persons must wait until a bed is available. Hopefully what we've done in LB 692, by the way, and LB 533 (sic--LB 543), with additional money that we spent, that this will be alleviated in the future. But we did incur a deficit this last year of \$1.5 million. This would be returned for an amendment to make this appropriations which was inadvertently left out of LB 538 in its original form as you voted on it. I'd ask your consideration for this.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Debate on the motion to return LB 538 to Select File? Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to close. Senator Wehrbein waives closing. The question is, shall LB 538 be returned to Select File for a specific amendment? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote